

**IN THE CLAIMS**

For the convenience of the Examiner all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether an amendment has been made or not. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for routing calls of an automatic call distributor system, comprising:

receiving, from a user, a request for connection with one of a plurality of agents having one of a plurality of skills;

identifying at least first and second agents of the plurality of agents, the first and second agents each having at least the one of the plurality of skills;

the first and second agents being available for connection with the user along first and second communication paths, respectively;

receiving ~~network information~~ a measurement of at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths;

identifying a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills; and

routing the request along a preferred communication path of the first and second communication paths based upon the availability of the first and second agents and the measurement of the at least one network parameter, the preferred communication path being selected to attain a higher probability that the generally unique skill will remain available for receiving a future request for connection.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths, respectively, comprises first and second quantities of bandwidth available along the first and second communication paths, respectively.

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of languages spoken by one or more of the plurality of agents.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of business types addressed by one or more of the plurality of agents.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the first agent is geographically remote from the second agent, and a third agent having the generally unique skill is co-located with one of the first and second agents.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths, respectively, includes network parameters associated with the first and second communication paths, respectively, the network parameters being selected from the group consisting of delay, jitter, and echo.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for handling calls of an automatic call distributor system, comprising:

receiving, from a user, a request for connection with one or a plurality of agents, having one of a plurality of skills;

connecting the user with a preferred agent of the plurality of agents, the preferred agent having the one of the plurality of skills; and

wherein the preferred agent is selected according to a statistical analysis using variables including a ~~network resource available along~~ measurement of at least one network parameter regarding a communication path between the user and the preferred agent, and an impact of connecting the user with the preferred agent upon the availability of a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills, to a future user.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the ~~network resource~~ network parameter comprises bandwidth.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 7, wherein the ~~network resource~~ network parameter comprises voice quality.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 8, wherein the statistical analysis further includes voice quality available along the communication path.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An automatic call distributor system, comprising:  
at least one input port operable to receive, from a user, a request for connection with one of a plurality of agents having one of a plurality of skills;  
a processor being operable to identify at least first and second agents of the plurality of agents, the first and second agents each having at least the one of the plurality of skills;  
the first and second agents being available with the user for connection along first and second communication paths, respectively;  
the processor being further operable to receive ~~network information~~ a measurement of at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths, and identify a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills; and  
the processor being further operable to select a preferred communication path of the first and second communication paths based upon the availability of the first and second agents and the measurement of the at least one network parameter, for routing the request, the preferred communication path being selected to attain a higher probability that the generally unique skill will remain available to future users.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 11, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second paths, respectively, comprises first and second quantities of bandwidth available along the first and second communication paths, respectively.

13. **(Original)** The system of Claim 11, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of languages spoken by one or more of the plurality of agents.

14. **(Original)** The system of Claim 11, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of business types addressed by one or more of the plurality of agents.

15. **(Original)** The system of Claim 11, wherein the first agent is geographically remote from the second agent, and a third agent having the generally unique skill is co-located with one of the first and second agents.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 11, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second network communication paths, respectively, includes network parameters associated with the first and second communication paths, respectively, the network parameters being selected from the group consisting of delay, jitter, and echo.

17. **(Currently Amended)** An automatic call distributor system, comprising:  
at least one input port being operable to receive, from a user, a request for connection with one of a plurality of agents having one of a plurality of skills;  
a processor being operable to identify a preferred agent of the plurality of agents, the preferred agent having the one of the plurality of skills; and  
wherein the processor is operable to select the preferred agent by a statistical analysis using a plurality of variable values including a ~~network resource available along~~ measurement of at least one network parameter regarding a communication path between the user and the preferred agent, and an impact of connecting the user with the preferred agent upon the availability of a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills, to a future user.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the ~~network resource~~ network parameter comprises bandwidth.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the ~~network resource~~ network parameter comprises voice quality.

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein the statistical analysis further includes voice quality available along the communication path.

21. **(Original)** The system of Claim 20, wherein voice quality is determined using one of a plurality of parameters including jitter, delay, and echo.

22. **(Currently Amended)** Logic encoded in media for routing calls of an automatic call distributor system, the logic operable to perform the following steps:

receive, from a user, a request for a connection with one of a plurality of agents having one of a plurality of skills;

identify at least first and second agents of the plurality of agents, the first and second agents each having at least the one of the plurality of skills;

the first and second agents being available to receive the request for connection along first and second communication paths, respectively;

receive ~~network information~~ a measurement of at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths;

identify a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills; and

route the request along a preferred communication path of the first and second communication paths based upon the availability of the first and second agents and the measurement of the at least one network parameter, the preferred communication path being selected to attain a higher probability that the generally unique skill will remain available for receiving a future request for connection.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 22, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths, respectively, comprises first and second quantities of bandwidth available along the first and second communication paths, respectively.

24. **(Original)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 22, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of languages spoken by one or more of the plurality of agents.

25. **(Original)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 22, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of business types addressed by one or more of the plurality of agents.

26. **(Original)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 22, wherein the first agent is geographically remote from the second agent, and a third agent having the generally unique skill is co-located with one of the first and second agents.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 22, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths, respectively, includes network parameters associated with the first and second communication paths, respectively, the network parameters being selected from the group consisting of delay, jitter, and echo.

28. **(Currently Amended)** Logic encoded in media for handling calls of an automatic call distributor system, the logic operable to perform the following steps:

receive, from a user, a request for connection with one of a plurality of agents, having one of a plurality of skills;

select a preferred agent of the plurality of agents by a statistical analysis using variables including a ~~network resource available along~~ measurement of at least one network parameter regarding a communication path between the user and the preferred agent, and an impact of connecting the user with the preferred agent upon the availability of a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills to a future user; and

connect the user with the preferred agent, the preferred agent having the one of the plurality of skills.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 28, wherein the ~~network resource~~ network parameter comprises bandwidth.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 28, wherein the ~~network resource~~ network parameter comprises voice quality.

31. **(Original)** The logic encoded in media of Claim 29, wherein the statistical analysis further includes voice quality available along the communication path.

32. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for routing calls of an automatic call distributor system, comprising:

means for receiving, from a user, a request for connection with one of a plurality of agents having one of a plurality of skills;

means for identifying at least first and second agents of the plurality of agents, the first and second agents each having at least one of the plurality of skills;

the first and second agents being available to receive the request for connection along first and second communication paths, respectively;

means for receiving ~~network information~~ a measurement of at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths;

means for identifying a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills; and

means for routing the request along a preferred communication path of the first and second communication paths based upon the availability of the first and second agents and the measurement of the at least one network parameter, the preferred communication path being selected to attain a higher probability that the generally unique skill will remain available for receiving a future request for connection.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the ~~network information~~ measurement of the at least one network parameter regarding each of the first and second communication paths, respectively, comprises first and second quantities of bandwidth available along the first and second communication paths, respectively.

34. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of languages spoken by one or more of the plurality of agents.

35. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the plurality of skills comprise a plurality of business types addressed by one or more of the plurality of agents.

36. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the first agent is geographically remote from the second agent, and a third agent having the generally unique skill is co-located with one of the first and second agents.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the **network information measurement of the at least one network parameter** regarding each of the first and second communication paths, respectively, includes network parameters associated with the first and second communication paths, respectively, the network parameters being selected from the group consisting of delay, jitter, and echo.

38. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for handling calls of an automatic call distributor system, comprising:

means for receiving, from a user, a request for a connection with one of a plurality of agents having one of a plurality of skills;

means for selecting a preferred agent of the plurality of agents by a statistical analysis using variables including a ~~network resource available along~~ **measurement of at least one network parameter regarding** a communication path between the user and the preferred agent, and an impact of connecting the user with the preferred agent upon the availability of a generally unique skill of the plurality of skills, to a future user; and

means for connecting the user with the preferred agent, the preferred agent having the one of the plurality of skills.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the **network resource network parameter** comprises bandwidth.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the **network resource network parameter** comprises voice quality.

41. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the statistical analysis further includes voice quality available along the communication path.